

## **Abstract**

A screening assay for identifying a selective IPC synthase inhibitor which assay comprises contacting a test compound with engineered cells whose capability to synthesize sphingolipids depends on the addition of exogenous phytosphingosine and which are capable of sustained growth via compensatory phospholipids, adding phytosphingosine, and determining IPC synthase inhibition by the test compound by reference to any cell growth inhibition. Engineered cells for use in the assay.